

HB 761 -- Animal Physical Therapists

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill contains provisions relating to animal physical therapists and veterinarians. The bill:

- (1) Prohibits veterinarians from making referrals for physical therapy services for animals to any entity in which the veterinarian, their employer, or immediate family member has a financial relationship;
- (2) Prohibits remuneration for referrals to veterinarians by entities providing physical therapy services for animals;
- (3) Allows animal physical therapists to provide education, training, fitness, and wellness services to animals without a prescription or direction of a veterinarian, providing they are acting within their scope of practice;
- (4) Proscribes animal physical therapists from initiating treatment for new illnesses or injuries;
- (5) Allows animal physical therapists to examine and treat animals with recurring injuries or chronic illnesses within a one year period of the prescription by a veterinarian. Animal physical therapists are required to contact the animal's current veterinarian within seven days of initiating treatment;
- (6) Requires animal physical therapists to refer animals which are not responding to treatment to a veterinarian; and
- (7) Authorizes animal physical therapists to delegate treatments through an animal physical therapist assistant if the prescribing veterinarian is notified.